

MAPLEWOOD NATURE CENTER K-1 CURRICULUM - 2015-16

KINDERGARTEN (1 ½ hour programs)

Wild Animal Puppet Shows

The playful antics of our wild animal puppets illustrate seasonal activities of wild animals. An outdoor Bingo Hike reinforces concepts learned in the puppet shows. Time to explore the indoor Animal Amphitheatre and the outdoor Nature Play Yard is included! Suitable for groups of up to 45 children.

Puppet Show Themes:

Fall— ***Wonderfall***

Spring—***Spring to Your Senses***

Winter—***Let It Snow***

Summer—***Quack Quack, Ribbit Ribbit, Peep Peep***

K.4.1.1.1 Comparing Plants and Animals

K.4.1.1.3 Comparing Living & Nonliving

K.4.2.1.1 Components in a System

Note: The Bingo hike may be led by nature center naturalists and volunteer trail guides or guided by your staff. If self-guided, you are encouraged to attend a teacher meeting with a naturalist prior to your visit.

Maple Sap Into Syrup (March Only)

Taste the sweet maple sap and find out how syrup is made from trees. Do a taste comparison of real maple syrup with pancake syrup. Look for the sun and clouds and read the air temperature with a simple thermometer. Learn to sequence the steps to collect and make maple syrup using pictures from start to finish. Learn about the maple tree from roots and trunk to buds and leaves, and how these tree parts make and store the sugary sap that sustains the trees and gives us treats. Learn the vocabulary of maple syruping.

K.3.2.2.1 Monitoring Weather

K.3.2.2.2 Sun's Heat & Light

K.4.1.1.2 External Parts of Organism

FIRST GRADE (1 ½ hour programs)

New – Metamorphic Life Cycles (Fall and Spring)

Students use nets and magnifiers to capture and compare bugs in the pond, prairie and woodland habitats, depending on season. They draw and describe the organisms (number of legs, color and shape) as seen in a magnifier box and learn to identify the life cycle stages. In Spring, we listen to the calls of birds and frogs during the breeding season.

1.4.1.1.1 Characteristics & Behaviors

1.4.2.1.2 Habitat & Needs

1.4.3.1.1 Animal Life Cycles

New –Animal Habits and Habitats (Winter)

What do animals do in winter? Learn some ways that five animal classes (reptiles, amphibians, fish, mammals and birds) survive the winter. Hibernate like a chipmunk and migrate like a robin. Check out the skulls and bones in the nature center's closet- compare a mammal skull with a bird and identify the features that enable them to see, hear and find food. Take a hike to find the tracks and signs of winter active mammals and birds.

SNOWSHOEING OPTION: If snow conditions are good, we can substitute snowshoeing for some activities.

1.4.1.1.1 Characteristics & Behaviors

1.4.2.1.1 Animal Needs

1.4.2.1.2 Habitat & Needs